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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Moosbierbaum is situated on the north bank of the Danube about 25 miles above Vienna, across the river from Swentendorf. Before Germany's occupation of Austria, Moosbierbaum was a rather small plant and had manufactured the following products which were made from potatoes: alcohol, starch, protein, syrup, glue which was mixed with wager glass, phosphorus residue which was sold as fertilizer, and potato pulp. Copper sulfate had also been manufactured; it was sold to the state, although a fair portion was illegally channeled for use in nearby vineyards. 25X1

25X1 toward the end of World War II a plant for making SS-oil (Synthetisches Schmieroel) was being built at Moosbierbaum.

2. When it became a Leuna subsidiary, Moosbierbaum was developed into a major European industrial complex. The IG combine

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furnished plans and technicians for the following new plants:

(a) Hydroforming Plant

The hydroforming plant which began operations in August 1942, treated crude oils for the production of high test aviation gasoline. (A process similar to hydroforming, and known as "T-52", had been used at Leuna until 1945. This process produced synthetic gasoline from the oil obtained from brown coal. The T-52 process was continued after World War II under the direction of the Soviets.) The crude oil used in the hydroforming plant at Moosbierbaum came from Zisterdorf, Austria, and from the Rumanian oil fields. The Zisterdorf fields and the trains which transported the oils from them, had been severly damaged by bombings during World War II. The Rumanian fields, however, continued full operations until the time when they were taken over by the advancing Soviet armies. During World War II, two pipe lines, one for liquid petroleum and the other for gaseous petroleum products, were built between Moosbierbaum and Zisterdorf. [redacted] the pipes were supplied by Mannesmann, a well-known German firm with headquarters in the Ruhr. A double pipe line was also built between the hydroforming plant and the river docks at Moosbierbaum during the same period.

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The off-gases from the hydroforming process, mainly methane, ethane, ethylene, and propane, were separated by cooling with four systems of Linde ice machines and then distilled. Some of the propane was compressed for use as a motor fuel. About 25 tank cars of finished products left the hydroforming plant each day.

(b) Fog Acid Plant

This plant began production at the beginning of 1944 and had been built according to plans furnished by IG Oppau. The Moosbierbaum fog acid plant produced a fuming sulfuric acid which was to be used with chlorine for producing fog for war purposes. At the end of World War II, specialists from this plant left Moosbierbaum and went to Augsburg, Germany (US Zone).

(c) A plant for making light metals

This plant was to make all light metals and their alloys, such as aluminum, magnesium, etc, according to IG combine processes. The plans for this plant were to be supplied by IG Bitterfeld, but by the spring of 1945, not even the skeleton buildings were completed because of many shortages in building materials.

25X1 3. [redacted] the chemical plants stretched along the Danube for six or seven kilometers. Since the end of World War II, the connection between Moosbierbaum and Leuna has ceased. Moosbierbaum still makes frequent requests for financial assistance for the development of its plants, but, [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] these requests are refused.

25X1 4. [redacted] in 1946, the following new plants had either been completed or were still under construction at Leuna:

(a) Synthetic Detergents Plant

The detergents which are produced are probably of the Mersolate type. This plant was first dismantled and then rebuilt. It began operations in 1949.

(b) Alcohol Plant

This plant probably produced higher alcohols. I saw this new plant in September 1951 and believe that it has been operating since 1949. As it is located near the synthetic methanol plant, I believe it is used for the separation and purification of the higher alcohols obtained in the methanol synthesis. Several of the old methanol and ammonia reactors had been removed and were not replaced by the end of 1951.

(c) Urea Plant

This plant has been in operation since the end of 1951.

(d) Plant for the manufacture of synthetic resins from urea (K-glue or Kaurit)

This plant has been operating since 1949. Urea resins are needed by the Soviets in great quantities to make plywood. (Plywood is much cheaper than ordinary lumber in the USSR. It is used extensively for making the large boards on which pictures of the Soviet leaders are displayed. Plywood is also used for making boxes, furniture, partitions and even outer walls for buildings in the USSR. Most of this plywood is made from pine and has knots and a rough surface, but some of it is also made from hardwoods.)

(e) Acetylene Plant

25X1 [redacted] this project was in the research stage, under the direction of Dr Heinrich Elm.

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